

Project PACE

Brief Program Description

It was the objective of Project PACE (Participation and Cooperation in Education), a primarily school-based, high-impact, prevention/education program, to enable the Town of Huntington Youth Bureau to replicate a model high-risk youth program for the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug (ATID) use. It was originally developed by Lancaster Schools and operated as Project CARE and to test the effectiveness of the program.

Project PACE focused on the prevention of ATID use by providing a series of intensive interventions to fourth grade students and families in Huntington Intermediate and Southdown Intermediate Schools. These interventions were meant to strengthen protective factors and reduce risk factors in three domains – the individual at-risk youth, the family, and the school.

Program Strategies

In the domain of the high-risk individual youth, PACE utilized the following intervention strategies: weekly student groups in school, regular individual student meetings with a prevention specialist, in-home family meetings, monthly student field trips, family activities, residential overnight summer camp, weekend overnight retreats, and involvement in recreational, community service and social activities.

In the domain of family, PACE utilized the following intervention strategies: in-home family meetings, family activities, parent education group meetings, parent participation in student residential camp experience, field trips and cultural events, counseling, and casework services/referrals relating to such basic needs as employment/education/ESL programs/DSS/SSI/Food Stamps/Medicaid.

In the domain of school, PACE utilized the following intervention strategies: Buddy system created to support program families' participation/attendance at PTA and other school meeting, prevention specialists serving as liaison/ombudsperson between families and school, and District Advisory Council to empower parents (especially minority parents).

Population Focus

Fourth grade students (determined to be at risk) and their families in Huntington Intermediate and Southdown Intermediate Schools.

Suitable Settings

The intervention is suitable for school-based settings.

Required Resources

Project PACE curriculum.

Implementation Timeline

Program youth and families received PACE services for one year.

Outcomes

Major program outcomes included:

- The program had a positive impact on reducing sixth grade absences.
- For self-esteem, there was a significant trial by group by risk group interaction effect. The low risk participants showed increased self-esteem while the high-risk participants and the control group showed a reduction in self-esteem.
- There was a general decrease in negative problem behaviors for the participant group and the high-risk control group in the pretest-posttest period, while the low risk control group experienced an increase in negative behaviors.

Contact Information

For indepth information on this program, please use the contact listed below.

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